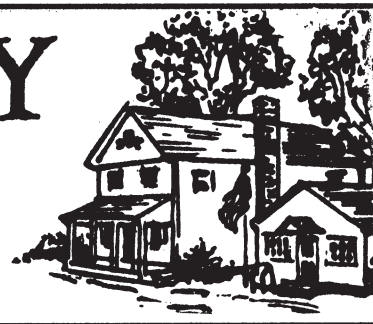




MONTEREY NEWS

September 2005
VOLUME XXXV · Number 9



The Town

Building Inspection Issues

Building Inspector Don Torrico, who has said repeatedly that his salary covers 10 hours of work per week, reported complaints from residents because he does not have enough time to respond to inspection requests. During the week beginning July 25th he worked 12 hours and in the week of August 1st he spent 16 hours on Monterey business, thus spending almost an entire week's worth of uncompensated hours in two weeks. Torrico reported his frustration at being unable to do his job properly.

Torrico explained that people must give the building inspector 24 hours notice prior to requiring an inspection, and under state code, the building inspector has 48 hours to respond.

Torrico and the Select Board are addressing the unresolved issue of how much the town should charge camps for inspection fees. A house being constructed on Main Road installed a culvert that does not meet Monterey code standards. A contractor hired by a town resident will have to go before a state board because of a violation that occurred when the contractor poured a foundation without permits and

then placed a modular house on it. The homeowner said that he was not aware he needed a permit.

Among the bylaw changes Torrico has suggested is the one governing signage. State code mandates that sign permits be granted by the Planning Board. Issues regarding height, distance from the road, and even the material used for a sign need to be addressed. Torrico is revising the driveway permit application form.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported that an alarm had gone off on Bidwell



Jean Germain

Roger the Jester working the crowd at the Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, July 30.

Road when horses were loose early one morning, but the owner rounded them up before the police arrived. The police department investigated a motor vehicle accident on Hupi Road. The owner of the dog whose bite resulted in the death of another dog was notified in writing that the dog must be kept on leash whenever it is out of doors in Monterey. After Backhaus received an early morning call from an out-of-state woman whose daughter needed to go to the emergency room, he picked up the young woman and drove her to the hospital.

There was a suspicious vehicle on Beartown Mountain Road, a motor vehicle accident on Tyringham Road with no injuries, an abandoned 911 call, and a lockout on Mt. Hunger Road. A domestic assault and battery charge took Backhaus to a residence where drug paraphernalia was in full view. The evidence was sent to the state police for testing. The victim of the assault and battery got a restraining order against the attacker.

A complaint from a resident on Sylvan Road about noise from the construction of a house on Point Road led to a discussion of whether the town has the right to impose beginning and ending times for construction. As Backhaus pointed out, Monterey considers noise a breach of the

peace between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. if a complaint is filed. The Police Department responded to a 911 call on Tyringham Road and to a complaint about noisy cars on Beartown Mountain Road.

A Hupi Road resident's dog that has apparently bitten people before took another bite out of a neighbor in August. The owner will receive a letter from Backhaus stating that the dog must be restrained on a leash whenever it is out of doors. When reporting this incident to the Select Board, Backhaus emphasized that people who feel they are harrassed by a dog should contact the Police Department.

The Police Department has received calls from people reporting lost boats on Lake Garfield. Since Backhaus has found that in almost every case, the wind has blown the boat around the lake, he advises complainants to look for the boat themselves or, if necessary, to call the Harbor Master, Dean Amidon.

The Select Board asked Backhaus to find out where the town can put in another crosswalk in the center of town. Director of Operations Maynard Forbes will handle a crosswalk sign.

Following up after an accident on Mt. Hunger Road, Backhaus wrote Verizon requesting that its truck drivers drive more carefully, particularly on Monterey's back roads.

The proprietors of Seven Stones Camp requested permission for Lifeline to entertain campers with a demonstration

of its medical response. The Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Select Board rejected the request for a variety of reasons.

Roads and Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that a culvert on New Marlborough Road that had suffered damage after high water in the spring was repaired. Beartown Mountain Road should be graveled by the time you read this article. Minor repairs were made on the newly reconstructed New Marlborough Road bridge.

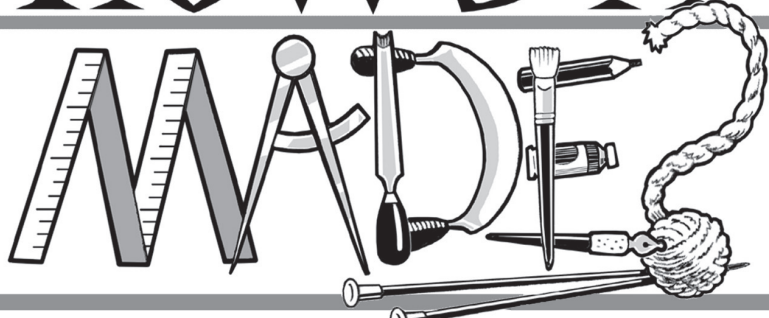
When Select Board Chair Michèle Miller asked Forbes about the revised roads policy she has proposed. Forbes suggested that capital projects be separated from maintenance since the capital budget can be scheduled well in advance. Miller's concern is primarily with dirt roads, specifically, reduction of erosion on the sides of the roads. Her goal is to make the maintenance process as systematic as possible.

Miller had requested that the Highway Department's capital budget be available by March 1 as the budget process is swinging into high gear before Town Meeting, something of a problem since the department produces its capital schedule in the fall. When maintenance tasks are proposed, Miller requests that proposals include details on issues such as widening, paving, and tree removal. In general, Miller suggests that the Select Board be provided



The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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with as much information as possible in advance of highway proposals, primarily to provide an opportunity for people to talk with the Director of Operations before a final plan is completed.

Forbes reported that Gordon Elkerton, the engineer hired for a drainage plan proposal for Fairview Road, submitted a revised proposal that eliminated some tasks and reduced the cost of the project to \$9000. Fairview Road "took a beating" during the August 14th rainstorm. As Forbes said, two inches of rain in 24 hours takes a certain amount of road with it.

Who mows what town land has become something of an issue. The Highway Department currently mows four or five intersections in town, plus the Edith Wilson property. After adding up the cost of mowing such sites as cemeteries, parks, and around town hall by people under contract, Forbes reported that if the Highway Department were to take over all town mowing it would need a truck and trailer. He said that the most contentious issue for his crew in this scenario would be the care of the headstones in the cemeteries, although he is puzzled about why this concern is expressed.

Until the issue of who is responsible for trash pickup at the town beach is resolved, the people who run the transfer station will do the job.

Miller told Forbes that plans for the salt shed and transfer station shed should proceed, preferably with "forward thinking."

Responding to a series of citizen emails about the washout of Tyringham Road at the intersection of Art School



Hanging out at the Firemen's Steak Roast.

Road, Forbes announced that repairing it would involve perhaps \$1,000 in equipment rental and \$1,000 for blacktop. He warned that this estimate may well change once the problem is opened up. He believes that paving the swale will require quite a bit of blacktop to prevent recurrence of the problem. At a later meeting, Forbes showed the Select Board a drawing for repair at that intersection.

Forbes pointed out that Route 23 is not a state road in Monterey, which has enabled the town to forego road widening. Towns like Great Barrington and Otis, where Route 23 is under state control, do not pay for its upkeep, while Monterey does and is thus able to dictate how it is maintained or altered. In particular, Forbes said that

Monterey uses approximately one-third of the salt on its roads than Great Barrington and Otis use on their roads.

Forbes corrected an earlier report by noting that Gould Road was repaved, not paved. A solution to the mud problem on Beartown Mountain Road involves the use of a filter fabric to keep the gravel from sinking. Subdrains on the side of the road will handle the mud.

Monterey homeowners are advised that the town will enforce the bylaw mandating the clear presentation of house numbers for 911 purposes. Private roads must post a sign with the name of the road. Fire Chief Ray Tryon said that the road signs should be consistent with town signs, so metal reflective ones should be used. Residents can expect to see many new signs, given that Monterey has three times as many private as public roads.

Miller asked Forbes to make a new signboard for Town Hall. She asked both Forbes and Backhaus about how to warn bikers about the hazards of riding on the narrow sections of Route 23. Backhaus said that the town could get federal funds for blacktopping shoulders for bikers, but that this would involve bringing Route 23 up to federal standards, a solution deemed unsuitable for the problem. The problems on Tyringham Road will be repaired once the stripers do their work in early September.

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Lake Garfield Drawdown

The Lake Garfield drawdown will occur from October 1–15. Forbes said that the depth of the drawdown is determined by the Conservation Commission from a three-year plan that must be revisited shortly. The lake is drawn down 3 inches when the goal is flood control, and 6 inches for weed control.

Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission chairman Chris Blair told the Select Board that it plans to hire an administrator to help out with various parts of its work for public meetings and hearings. The commission's workload increased significantly after passage of the Scenic Mountain Act, requiring it to review every building permit that comes before the town. As part of the list of town committees that can use fees collected by the town, the commission will be able to pay for the additional help. The Commission's fees will be adjusted to reflect the higher cost of doing business.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Ray Tryon reported that the Fire Department had received a number of calls, but all of them were for medical emergencies, not fires. Payment to the Fire Department totaled more than the \$50,000 budgeted to it for 2004–2005. The overpayment of \$3,680 will be paid back to the town at the end of the current fiscal year.

Tryon elaborated on the 911 sign that must be posted at the foot of all driveways no later than the end of September. He assured the Select Board and anxious residents that the posted signs do not need to be the usual unattractive "911" signs that dot driveways in other South Berkshire towns. So long as a Monterey resident's sign has a visible 4-inch house number on it and is posted at the end of the driveway, it will conform.

The house number for 911 use is the same as the number in the street address. Thus if a person lives at #1 Main Road, the 911 sign will read "1." Forbes is in charge of oversight of the signs, and at the beginning of October fines will be imposed for noncompliance.

Insurance

Monterey's insurance company paid \$10,000 to the Nolan Trucking company for damage done to one of their trucks when the Director of Operations backed into it.

Michael E. Garrold, a senior account executive with Monterey's current insurance carrier, MIIA, addressed the Select Board about his company's fee structure. He said that he and others employed by MIIA to service municipalities are paid salaries, not commissions, a point Select Board member Michael Storch, a seasoned commission salesman before his retirement, thought worked against the best interests of Monterey.

Miller asked Garrold what MIIA was doing to fashion a fundamental change in how health care is provided. Garrold replied that Monterey is eligible for a

"wellness program" and other means of receiving MIIA rewards.

Select Board member Jon Sylbert told Garrold that he had been called to meet with the Select Board because a representative from a competitor had presented the town with lower rates. Sylbert asked if MIIA could adjust some of its charges so Monterey could receive a 10 percent discount from its current rates. Storch said that he favors flat rates, not a system that has discounts for this, that, and the other thing. Miller told Garrold that the town is examining all of its commitments before renewing contracts.

Wilson McLaughlin House

After the Select Board reviewed the proposed lease for the Wilson-McLaughlin house, Sylbert said that more work needed to be done on the specifics. Three members of the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House group met with the Select Board to review clarifications to the lease.

Dennis Lynch, a new town resident who has experience dealing with grants, volunteered to help the Friends identify funding sources.

Town Office

Town Secretary Melissa Noe will be trained to act as the town authorizing agent for alcohol licenses. She is using an online grant program to learn how to write grants for the town. Noe reported progress on the T1 line that Town Hall will get within the next year. She noted that more room is needed for filing cabinets.

Suggestions were made about beginning a clipping file for easy reference to

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articles of interest to or about town news and developments, leading to a suggestion that a Town Archivist might be needed.

Miller asked Noe to put descriptions of each board and commission on the town website.

The Select Board would like to hear regularly from the Finance Committee.

The Select Board interviewed candidates for Animal Control Officer and for a computer consultant.

The Select Board set dates for the next three quarterly all-boards meetings: November 21, February 20, and May 15. The annual informational meeting will be April 21, 2006, followed by the annual Town Meeting on May 6.

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk, Barbara Swann, moved the voting machine into Town Hall so the Assistant Town Clerk can be given instruction on its use. Since so many people ask questions answerable only by the Town Clerk, it was noted that it would be useful if she were at Town Hall more regularly.

Swann has also moved certain parts of her office to Town Hall, but she is waiting to move the rest of the files until an archivist provides consultation.

After Miller noted that logging was occurring on her property, Swann said that Monterey had enacted a logging bylaw, but that the wording for it was at her home, not at Town Hall. Swann did note that permission to log must be received from Director of Operations Forbes.

Park Commission

Park Commission Chairman Leroy Thorpe told the Select Board that Ray Bertelli, the electrician he asked to replace the wiring for the basketball court, does not provide estimates, but that the work should proceed regardless. Thorpe suggested that perhaps the easiest way to replace the line would be to hire Leigh Tryon to do the job. The power line to the light on the ball field comes from Town Hall, as does the faulty line to the basketball court, so both lines can be handled at one time. Forbes will meet with Bertelli to effect the lighting repairs.

Valerie Zantay has been sworn on to the Parks Commission by the Town Clerk, but has not received official notice from the Select Board about her appointment, so she cannot cast a vote. Zantay is replacing Linda Mulvey, so her appointment will last until the May 2006 Town

Meeting, at which time she will run for a one-year term.

Thorpe opined that trash pickup at the town beach is not within the Parks Commission's purview, although a commission member has said that they pay someone to do so.

Education

The new school representative, Deborah D. Mielke, told the Select Board that she has attended two meetings of the Southern Berkshires School District committee. The new chairman is Sheffield resident Josh Pollack, who offered to attend a Monterey Select Board meeting if the Board so desires. Mielke has been appointed to the Finance subcommittee plus the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee.

No committee meetings are scheduled for August, but the September 8th meeting will be held in Monterey at 7:00 p.m. at the Monterey School. Mielke reported that it is customary for the host town to offer refreshments, so Kenn Basler was asked to provide them. Mielke also announced that there will be a party to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the school district in October. School begins August 31. People interested in following school district news are advised to visit www.sbrsd.org, which posts minutes, a

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Chuck Mielke presented a list of school upkeep issues to the Select Board, who will send Superintendent Valerie Spriggs a letter requesting timely snow removal from the Monterey School.

Miller informed the Select Board that parents who choose out to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (Great Barrington) may have to provide their own transportation since the town of Otis will no longer pick up Monterey students. The Town Secretary was asked to call Otis officials to find out if a solution could be found. Sylbert suggested that the Monterey education committee appoint a transportation subcommittee.

This and That

Another proposal submitted by Riccardo Boehm for 40B development of the Wilson-McLaughlin property led to a discussion that reaffirmed the decision of the Select Board not to sell town-owned land. The Select Board's investigation of affordable housing on municipal property is being helped along by Fred Chapman, who is taking charge of that issue.

Elizabeth Goodman and Bill Shein plan to synthesize information they

gleaned from a community conversation, and will report on it in the *Monterey News*. They hope that the energy emanating from the meeting will result in greater community development.

Monterey has 296 full-time residents over the age of 55, a figure noteworthy in the context of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation program, the organization that charges towns \$22.95 per resident 55+ if the town signs up for its services. Monterey would have to pay \$6,793 per year for this transportation service, far more than the \$3,400 currently available in town coffers for such transportation. The town does not participate in the program for several reasons, one being that the service does not go as far north as Pittsfield, a destination many need for health services. Discussion ensued on what it would cost to hire cab service for qualified town residents who need transportation.

Frank Wishnick and Peter Wyers from Gould Farm addressed the Select Board about Wyers' interest in metal detecting to search for artifacts and coins. Wyers asked for a letter of permission to continue to prospect for artifacts, a request the Select Board granted with the provision that anything dug up on town property belongs to the town.

Kenn Basler brought in a schedule for his musical offerings in August. Basler asked for feedback on the Trails of Monterey pamphlet, and announced that the General Store and the Library were holding a joint booksigning for Leonard Weber, author of *The Freedom Trail*.

— Laurily K. Epstein

Monterey Community Center

"Patience, patience, patience!" we tell ourselves at every Wilson McLaughlin House Committee meeting. There are so many, many things to get into place, and it all takes a nearly unbearable amount of time. Meanwhile, everyone in town is asking what we are Doing and when we are going to Start.

Although we are not yet sitting on the porch of the General Store handing out information, we certainly have started, and it is full speed ahead. It's kind of like the new hay barn at Rawson Brook Farm. To most eyes, it seems like it got started last fall, but in fact, it started 2½ years ago when a Farm Viability Grant point person approached me suggesting that I might qualify for a grant to help solve some of the farm's challenging issues. We spent months and months and months in the planning stages. The visible time spent actively constructing the building has been relatively short. When I get impatient, I have to remember what I know: behind every worthy project are seemingly endless hours of planning and preparation.

This is what we've been up to in the past month:

- Our new web site, www.ccmonterey.org is up and under construction. We are very excited about this highly effective mode of relaying information to our fellow citizens. Check it out and see a vibrant painting by Edith Wilson that conveys the passion she felt for her house. Our e-mail address is center@ccmonterey.org.

- We are in the process of finalizing the lease agreement with the town. This



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idea of leasing the house from the town while we turn it into the preliminary Community Center space makes the whole thing work. If it were not set up this way, any money raised for the project would go into general town funds and would have to go through an approval process at town meeting every year; donors would not have the guarantee that their money was destined for the Center. The solution was the formation of a 401(c)(3), a not-for-profit corporation, which can accept donations and receive grants.

- We are developing our first brochure. There is a lot of information we are excited about conveying, and it is hard work to select just the right effective bits and design an effective flyer.

- We are looking into the business of hiring an architect for the big project of reworking the house into an inviting useable space.

- We are actively seeking out folks to help: a graphic designer and some experienced fund-raisers are on our wish list. Please e-mail us or call a committee member if you can lend a hand.

— Susan Sellew

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Notes from the Library

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Gale Info Trac Databases:

Biography Resource Center with Marquis Who's Who
Business and Company ASAP
Contemporary Literary Criticism Select
Expanded Academic ASAP Plus
General Business File ASAP
General Reference Center Gold
Health Reference Center Academic
Info Trac Kids Edition (Grades K–6)
Info Trac Junior Edition (Grades 5–12)
Info Trac Student Edition (Grades 9–12)
Kids InfoBits
Professional Collection

NewsBank:

Boston Globe
Boston Herald
The Republican (Springfield)
Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Net Library

These are all free! Net Library allows you to access electronic books—you can read books without leaving your home. You can read the newspapers above as well. Please come in to the library to get your instructions on how to use these databases, and the library card number that will allow you to access these services.

THANK YOU to Kenn Basler at the Monterey General Store for providing soft serve ice cream to all the young readers who joined our summer reading program.

Thank you to all the children who participated in the reading program and came to our Saturday morning programs!

Some of the New Books

Adult Fiction

Belle Ruin, Martha Grimes;
A Sudden Country, Karen Fisher;
The Last Days of Dogtown, Anita Diamant;
The Good Priest's Son, Reynolds Price;
Sky Burial, Xinran;
Tattoo Artist, Jill Ciment;
Sweetwater Creek, Anne Rivers Siddons;
Lunar Park, Bret Ellis;
Legends: a Novel of Dissimulation, Robert Littell;
Hill Road, Patrick O'Keeffe;
The Last Resort, Carmen Posadas;
Deadly Slipper, Michelle Wan;
Wildcat Wine, Claire Matturro;
Incendiary, Chris Cleave;
Long Time Gone, J. A. Jance.

Adult Nonfiction

Eudora Welty, Suzanne Mars;
Ten Hours until Dawn, Michael Tougias;
100 People Who Are Screwing up America, Bernard Goldberg;
The Elements of Murder: A History of Poison, John Emsley;
Thomas Paine and the Promise of America, Harvey Kaye;
Praying for Gil Hodges, Thomas Oliphant.

Children

I'm Still Here in the Bathtub, Alan Katz;
The Everything Kid's Joke Book, Michael Dahl;
The Ancient Near East, Rebecca Stefoff;
Diary of a Spider, Doreen Cronin;
Hey, Pancakes, Tamson Weston.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Title V Issues Discussed at August All Boards Meeting

On August 15 the Select Board held its quarterly All Boards meeting at Town Hall. Select Board Chair Michèle Miller introduced Tritown Health Inspector Peter Kolodziej, also Sanitary Inspector for Monterey, who attended to brief the boards on applications to the Board of Health. Steven Enoch, the Board's chairman, opened the meeting by pointing out that the Board of Health is one of the first places new applicants must visit for approval of building or renovation.

Board of Health decisions are typically based on Title V of Massachusetts General Law, particularly the phrase "maximum feasible compliance." Thus, when the Board receives a plan for the simple upgrade of a failed septic system—"simple upgrade" meaning no additions to the house or a change in the foundation—the engineer is required to submit a plan specifying the conditions for a maximum feasible compliance plan.

Life gets more complicated when the proposal entails changing the footprint of the house. If adding a room, changing the flow, or increasing the square footage is involved, Title V procedures mandate that the Board of Health compare the existing and proposed floor plans, with specific attention paid to the definition of bedroom. Since septic system capacity is

determined by the number of bedrooms, how bedrooms are defined is critical. Since none of this is necessarily intuitive, listing Title V's bedroom definition may help future applicants. From Title V:

"Bedroom – A room providing privacy, intended primarily for sleeping and consisting of all of the following:

- (a) floor space of no less than 70 square feet;
- (b) for new construction, a ceiling height of no less 7 ft. 3 in;
- (c) for existing houses and mobile homes, a ceiling height of no less than 7 ft. 0 in.;
- (d) an electrical service and ventilation; and,
- (e) at least one window."

As Kolodziej noted, the Board of Health gets all kinds of proposals for a den, music room, sewing room, and other types of "no, this isn't a bedroom," but if the room falls under the code specifications for a bedroom, "that's how we'll view it." To complicate the situation, Koldziej said that zoning boards can have a bedroom definition at variance with that provided by Title V.

A frequent request for Title V variance arises with water requirements. State law imposes strict protection of the amount of room between the bottom of a proposed septic system and the groundwater table for a new house. The Sanitary Inspector must witness soil evaluations when tests of this nature are performed.

The most difficult applications are ones in which owners want to upgrade a septic system or build additions to houses in the Lakefront district. Any water system within 400 ft. of Lake Garfield or Lake Buel must adhere to different standards than those outside of the 400-ft. boundary. The major difference is that homeowners within the 400-ft. boundary have to use one of the approved Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) technologies. Kolodziej's enthusiasm for the benefits of advanced technological solutions in water control, with their ability to reduce the size of fields, is encouraging.

Lakefront homeowners are advised to recognize that the Board of Health can approve a project under the guidelines of Title V, but that the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) can reject the same proposal if the change conflicts with Monterey's zoning laws. Each board can act within its legally imposed guidelines, but because these guidelines are sometimes at odds with each other, one board can approve and the other decline the same application. The most frequently encountered difference in bylaws has to do with the 10-ft. setback used by the Board of Health and the 15-ft. setback that is the standard for the ZBA. The best approach is for applicants to find out the rules before making

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plans, so that likely misunderstandings might be avoided.

Planning Board member Janet Cathcart asked Kolodziej if Monterey should initiate a monitoring system to insure that new septic systems are functioning properly. A number of communities have set up septic districts that require homeowners to pump out their septic system every two or three years. If such a monitoring system is in place, homeowners do not need a Title V inspection when the house is sold. Moreover, septic districts can provide low-interest loans for updates.

What is a "structure"? This seemingly innocuous word assumes ominous connotations in land use codifications. The DEP calls a wall a structure, a definition that packs a wallop when a retaining wall is necessary for a septic system. It was pointed out that permission from the Building Inspector is necessary "every time the earth is turned." (Stop holding your breath; it doesn't apply to gardening.) All construction plans must contend with wetlands, setbacks, and other sometimes "out of sight, out of mind" land use issues.

The complexity of these interrelated but sometimes conflicting regulations evoked an appropriate response from Finance Committee member Dan Moriarty: "Is there an instruction booklet for homeowners?" he asked. Select Board member Jon Sylbert reported that the Select Board had started putting together a package for all homeowners, builders, indeed anyone getting a permit, but the size of the booklet had grown to such gargantuan proportions that it is still lingering in a "to do" pile.

After the highly informative two-hour meeting, it seems likely that the Select Board will once again investigate the best means to educate Monterey residents about the regulation thicket.

—Laurily K. Epstein

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.....7-9 p.m.

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Hatchery Lobsterfest

On Sunday afternoon, August 21, the fourth annual Lobsterfest filled up all those who supported this gourmet event, sponsored by the Board of Directors of The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation, John Doelman President. A sudden downpour just as guests began to arrive did not dampen anything more than a few paper tablecloths. Boiled lobster, a raw clam and oyster bar, a glass or two of wine or beer, roast corn, salad, and boiled vegetables put everyone in a good mood, while Arnie Hayes entertained with high notes on his ivory piano keys.

After dinner, Craig Hollingsworth, Ph.D., from the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, as well as Western Mass. Center For Sustainable Aquaculture, announced, a pending agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Dan Kuzmeskus for the Hatchery to become part of the Connecticut River Salmon Restoration Project. Kuzmeskus, whose office is in Springfield, would target the Hatchery to a production level of 20,000 salmon smolt, at the same time having the discretion to grow other species of fish for educational purposes and farm pond programs.

While the involvement of U.S.F.W.S. is welcome news to members of the Hatchery Foundation Board, the plan does not

Notice: Street Number Signs Required by Oct. 1

All houses in Monterey are required to have their street number posted on the road. This is to ensure that responders to 911 emergency calls can find your home.

Signs should have 4-inch black numbers on a white background, or otherwise be designed to be visible. These can be purchased at any local hardware store.

include a daily presence on the premises, and presents our working volunteers with the more difficult task of hatching salmon eggs. Craig made a strong appeal for additional daily volunteers from the local supporters to come forward to help this program essential to keeping the gem of a facility open. Ken Simmons of the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife has been contacted for state support, and Scott Scares of The Department of Agriculture said he would explore some possibilities.

A great lobster dinner, an eventful evening, and news of so much federal, state, and western center involvement to save the Hatchery was inspiring and encouraging. Many thanks to all who came and contributed on this memorable occasion.

—George Emmons, Hatchery Board

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Photos by Richard Edelman



LakeFest 2005: Was That Fun, or What!

Perhaps feelings about the day were best expressed by five-year-old Noah (alias Spiderman) Farevaag, who, visiting Grandma, declared, "This was the best day of my life!"

On August 13th LakeFest 2005, a day for all Monterey to enjoy, got off to a startling start when young Hunter Rodrick captured first prize at the Hatchery Fishing Derby by landing—are you ready for this?—a 9.1-lb., 27-inch rainbow trout. This is no fish story! (See photo.) Hunter, my hero, you are living my dream!

In the afternoon, while the weatherman played games with the sky, kids played games on the beach, ran relay races, built sandcastles, had their faces painted ... and, overall, had a ball.

Three hours of free motorboat rides hosted over a hundred happy faces.

At 4:30, David Grover and the Big Bear Band rolled in and rocked the beach. This multitasking trio kicked off with a kids' concert that brought out some of the broadest smiles ever recorded.

Next came the Potluck dinner ... and the rain and the thunder and the lightning ... but it was no match for the LakeFest spirit. After a brief break, Montereyans resumed their dinner, parading their culinary prowess with an endless array of delicious dishes, truly a gustatory extravaganza. Marshmallows roasting on an open fire were a favorite with the sticky-faced smaller set.

If the festivities ended right there, it would have been a glorious day ... but the best was yet to come. David Grover and the Big Bear Band thrilled the crowd to an eclectic encore performance. There's nothing this group can't play! And play they did, lending their genius to folk

and rock and pop and jazz ... and then some! When it seemed they'd peaked, they went higher. And higher, taking the audience with them for a medley of Americana music — "This Land is Your Land," "God Bless America," et al — music that can seem corny unless the moment is just right. Grover and his gang made it better than just right, in a fabulous finale that had everyone up and dancing. Thank you David Grover. Thank you Terry A La Berry. Thank you Kathy Jo.

But, wait, there's more. Next, exploding kaleidoscopes decorated the night sky in a dazzling display of fireworks, accompanied by the "Oh's" and "Ah's" of adults and kids alike.

And now a word from our sponsor. The Friends of Lake Garfield conceived, coordinated, and contributed the majority of the funds for LakeFest. This year and last, the Town Of Monterey provided additional funds along with their official sponsorship, crucial for many reasons.

Peter S. Vallianos **Attorney at Law** **528-0055**

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Seven-year-old Hunter Rodrick displays (with an assist from Leroy Thorpe) his 27-in., 9.1 lb. rainbow trout that took first place in the fishing derby.

The old timers, Janet, Dean, Fran, Harriet, Pat, Eve, Kathie, and yours truly give a big tip of the hat to newcomers of the LF Organizing Committee (the equal of any Olympics Organizing Committee!): Brian, Jamie, Ginny, Linda, and Katherine. Special thanks to the grilling team of Del and Sue Rogers for turning out juicy hamburgers and hot dogs while keeping the home fires burning, despite the deluge. And a great big hug to all the other volunteers who worked so hard to make LakeFest 2005 the best ever. Is this a great town, or what!

Cheers for the following Monterey businesses and individuals for their funding:

Fishing Derby Winners

Morning Catch

First: Hunter Rodrick—27 in., 9.1 lb. rainbow trout

Second: Nicole Orsi—18 in. rainbow

Third: Datka Ziegler—17 in. rainbow

Fourth: Cody Funk—12 in. rainbow

Afternoon Catch

Brye Whalen—17 in. rainbow

Fireworks Sponsors

Grand Finale

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Dan Andrus and Mark Amstead for
lights & sound at the beach.

Kenn Basler & Monterey General
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of LakeFest.

— Hy Rosen

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Tours of Searsburg Wind Power Facility

The public is invited to attend a renewable energy tour of the Green Mountain Power Corporation's wind facility in nearby southern Vermont. Tours are offered on Thursday, August 25, and Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. On Friday, October 7, tours will be held at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Space is limited to 20 individuals per tour. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 413-445-4556, ext. 14, or amyj@cetonline.org. Directions to the site will be provided or can be found at www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#Wind. The tours are sponsored by the Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative.

Wind power is the world's fastest growing energy source, but in New England, turbines are still rare. The wind facility located on Searsburg Mountain was one of the first commercial scale wind power facilities constructed in the Northeast. Since 1997, eleven 550-kilowatt wind turbines have been producing electricity. The guided tour will cover topics ranging from selecting the site, public acceptance, how the technology works, wildlife protection, and the potential for wind power in this region.

"This is a unique opportunity to visit a wind farm that produces as much as 14 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy annually. Seeing the turbines up close gives visitors a chance to better un-

derstand this clean, local form of energy production," noted Nancy Nylen, Associate Director of CET and coordinator of the Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative. "The tours also give residents from communities that are considering wind power a chance to see first hand what's involved."

During the tour, participants will learn about issues that may affect the energy future of the Berkshires and have ample opportunity to ask questions. The Searsburg wind facility is only open for tours on a limited basis between July and October due to protection of black bear habitat.

The Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative is an ad hoc committee comprised of individuals representing educational, environmental, community, and business interests. They have been working for more than five years to promote energy conservation and increase the availability of renewable energy in the region. Collaborative members have made public education a high priority and are offering a series of renewable energy tours. Future tours will highlight solar energy and green building techniques.

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET), a non-profit environmental organization coordinates Collaborative activities. Support for this event comes from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust. CET is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

— Amy Johns, (CET)



Catherine Mielke Celebrates 80th Birthday

A special Happy 80th Birthday to Catherine Mielke September 29! A longtime resident of Monterey, moving here with her husband Bill in February 1953 with three children in tow, Kay, raised six children on Blue Hill Road, five of whom still live in town. She has fifteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Kay splits her time between her homes in Florida, Monterey, and Gloucester.



Walk-a-Thon to Benefit Sandisfield's Yanner Park

Friends of Yanner Park have organized a walk-a-thon on Sunday, September 25, rain or shine. Walkers (individuals or teams) may register at 9 a.m. at Yanner Park on Town Hill Road in Sandisfield. The three-mile walk along Town Hill Road begins at 9:30 a.m. and finishes at the park with free refreshments. Proceeds from the walk will help fund a series of walking trails on the property.

Sponsor forms are available at www.yannerpark.org and at the Sandisfield Post Office.

Walkers are encouraged to get sponsors and pledge donations before the walk. Any and every donation amount is welcome. Friends of Yanner Park volunteers are also selling Yanner Park T-shirts and baseball caps to raise additional funds.

If you would like to join the Walking Trail Committee to help plan and create trails, please contact Hal Holt, 258-4018, or Eric Hartshorn, 258-2846.

Yanner Park is a 257-acre parcel of forested land given to the Town of Sandisfield by the late Jack Yanner. Friends of Yanner Park is a nonprofit organization established in 2004 to raise the funds necessary to build the park with features such as a playground, pavilion, ice-skating rink, ballfield and walking trails. For more information, visit www.yannerpark.org.

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Song to a stranger

*Let me touch your hand
let me touch your hair
let me reach to you
as you go by, stranger
into that other darkness*

which is yours

*and tell you the good news
yes, yes the good news
the crazy gospel of
rosy flowers growing out of grey
dust
and the yellow sun shining out of black
sky
and a baby crying in a crib
while the coffins are floating down*

*the streams
of time*

*let me touch your hand
let me swing you round
let me reach to you
into that solitude
which was mine*

*and tell you the good news
the crazy gospel of
every river running to the great
sea*

*and women washing clean their old
clothes
and the guns are catalogued
and left*

*let me touch your hand
let me kiss your face
let me reach to you
as you go by, stranger
into that nowhere
which I knew*

*and tell you the good news
no, not the bad news
just the crazy gospel of
all the yesses which come before a no
sounds
the innocence shining out of kids'
eyes
before the darkness swallows up their toys
and they learn to fit in boxes all
alone*

*let me hold your hand
let me swing you round
let me reach to you
as you go by, stranger!*

— A. O. Howell

Music Lesson

*By Schubert's Trout Quintet they say they're bored;
Four Seasons, Lark Ascending, they deride.
They claim Nachtmusik's much too often heard,
and Pachelbel they simply can't abide.
Self-styled sophisticates, they're quick to label
such music as has garnered mass appeal.
By stipulating "warhorse" one is able
to show good taste and make the novice feel*

*unknowing, taken in. No more Swan Lake,
no Pomp and Circumstance, the listener's told,
if you would music-maven status seek.
These works, it's said, are tired, oversold.
Such glib assertion of a listening duty
ignores the timeless call of all great beauty.*

— Ed Schur
(originally appeared in *Pivot*)

Free Sept. Bidwell House Tours for Monterey, Tyringham Residents

The first question visitors to the Bidwell House Museum have is, Why would anyone build a large Georgian saltbox colonial in the middle of nowhere in 1750? The museum staff will provide a host of reasons but the short answer is that the location of the house, the parsonage of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell and the Congregational Meeting House, was at the center of a busy thoroughfare in the mid-eighteenth century. Typically, there's a moment of silence as incredulity spreads across the visitors' faces. Then, the docent of the day picks up the story of the Royal Hemlock Road, an Indian path that was established as a dirt road in 1743, the colonists' pathway connecting the Old Boston Post Road with the port of Albany on the Hudson River. "Notice how close we are to the Mass Turnpike," the guide says.

This house was a physical resting place for many travelers. It was never an actual tavern, but the Reverend left forty-eight chairs in the house and five punch bowls upon his death—an indication that weary travelers had a place to be refreshed and to rest before continuing their journey. Most colonial homes have one beehive oven in the keeping room but the Reverend's house plans called for a second one in the dining room. Hosting parishioners and guests was an expectation of his—and was to be carried out by his wife. She always had food for the poor as well: servants, slaves, hired help, and the Indian woman living in the hinterland who found sustenance at their door. Christian hospitality was at the core of the Sermon on the Mount—the words of Jesus were read each day by the Bidwell family.

The Bidwell House, restored to its original colonial origins and filled with authentic period furnishings, is the heritage of all the residents of both Tyringham and Monterey. Because of its historic significance to local residents, the Board of Directors has announced that any resident of the two towns is welcome to come to the museum free of charge during September. It promises to be a twenty-first century spiritual resting place as visitors are encouraged to walk the trails, visit the flower gardens and the Heritage Vegetable Garden, produced from heirloom seeds.

The demographics of Tyringham Township #1, opened up for settlement in 1735, included a subdivision of 63 home lots, one which was set aside for the first minister and one for the first sawmill established on what is now Lake Garfield. By 1762, there were 55 families in the township but the road system and river ways inadvertently divided the population: Hop Brook in Tyringham and Konkapak Brook in Monterey.

During the early industrial period of American history, from 1830 to 1870, the third generation of Bidwells inhabited the spacious acreage until it was sold eventually to the Carringtons, who lived on the land for three more generations. During this period, Tyringham and Monterey separated. By 1847, according to town records, the Monterey General Store was the social center of the town of Monterey, and the demographic center was the new Congregational Church across the street. Tyringham built its own church in 1844.

To celebrate the historic origins of local residents, the Director of the Bidwell House Museum has named September "Know Your Roots" month and a gracious invitation is extended to all Tyringham and Monterey residents to tour the Bidwell House Museum.

Walk Bidwell House Trails

The "Trails of Monterey" booklet, available at and sponsored by the Monterey General Store, and edited and produced by Janet Cathcart, features the Bidwell House trails on the opening page. The Meeting House Trail is a short twenty-minute walk that starts at the parking lot. The Old Royal Hemlock Road Trail begins behind the Bidwell House and was traveled by citizens of Tyringham to the Meeting House before the Township divided in 1842.

You will have an opportunity to walk the long but easy Royal Hemlock Trail on Saturday, September 17, with trail guide Richard Greene of Tyringham; he will lead you through the historical thoroughfare on the Bidwell property. Meet at the Bidwell House at 10 a.m. and have good walking shoes and water. You will walk in the footsteps of early settlers and see where General Knox led his troops with canon from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston, intersecting this trail on the way. When you return after a couple of hours, you can use our picnic benches if you plan a picnic lunch or, if you would like, we'll order a lunch for you from the Monterey General Store at 10:00 a.m. and have it ready for you when you return.

CHARLES J. FERRIS Attorney at Law



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David McAllester to Teach Wigwam Lore at Bidwell

Nationally known anthropologist and Monterey resident Dr. David McAllester will lead a group of teenagers from grades 7 through 12 in the construction of an authentically styled Mahican wigwam on the grounds of the Bidwell House Museum on September 25 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.. Interested students may pre-register by telephone with Dr. Martha Dailey, museum director, by calling 413-528-6888. Students are required to have written and signed parental permission to participate. Native American Day is sponsored by the museum; registration will close on September 15 and enrollment is limited. Lunch will be provided for enrolled student participants.

The public is invited to view the wigwam and hear a presentation by Dr. McAllester at 1:00 p.m. entitled "Wigwam Lore: Religious and Philosophical Meaning of the Wigwam in Algonquin Life."

Dr. McAllester was born in Everett, Massachusetts, and graduated from Harvard University and Columbia University. He was a professor of anthropology and music at Wesleyan University for many years and cofounded the Society for Ethnomusicology. He was visiting professor at many universities in the U.S. and abroad. He was a fellow of the American Anthropological Assoc., American Academy of Sciences and Arts, Guggenheim and Carnegie Foundations and many others.

His field research in Native American music, religious literature, and ceremonialism includes the Hopis, Navajos, Penobscots, Passamaquoddies, and other southwestern groups. He has conducted archival research on the Mahican since 1981. Author of many books and scholarly articles, Professor McAllester retired in 1986 and became editor of the *Monterey News* until 1990. His interests include hiking, camping, canoeing, and natural history, and he is writing a family history.

Native American Day is sponsored by the museum. Director and historian Dr. Martha Dailey announced the special program for young people and said, "It is an honor for us to have Dr. McAllester's expertise focused on area young people. It is an opportunity of a lifetime for teen-

Eagle Fund Fundraiser

The Eagle Fund of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District cordially invites you to the benefit performances of *The Guys*, a play by Anne Nelson at the Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield on Saturday, September 10, and Sunday, September 11.

This play is a memorial tribute to the firefighters of 9/11. After helping a New York City fire chief write eulogies for the men he lost in the World Trade Center disaster, journalist Anne Nelson was asked to write a play about the ordinary, yet extraordinary men she had come to know. According to the *New York Times*,

agers. They will select saplings from our extensive wooded acreage and a suitable site for the wigwam. Working side by side with this distinguished professor, the students will learn how to use a small handsaw and construct an authentic wigwam in the tradition of the indigenous Indians of our area. We hope to honor the Mahican and honor the sacredness of the land by building this shelter, which will be open to the public on its completion for contemplation and appreciation."

Students will be supervised by McAllester, Dailey, and two adult volunteers. For more information, call the Bidwell House Museum at the above number.

"*The Guys* is not an ordinary night in the theater.... What comes through is that humanity can be exalted." Noted film director Robert Altman says, "*The Guys* goes beyond theater. It's not just entertainment. It [is] a real, moving document."

The Saturday evening performance begins with a pre-performance discussion at 7:00 p.m. with the playwright Anne Nelson, director Liz Thompson, and Hugh Hardy, an architect involved in the Twin Towers cleanup. The play begins at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed with a post-performance dessert reception. The ticket cost for the evening is \$60 per person, with student tickets for the play at \$15 per person.

The Sunday afternoon performance is \$25 per person with student tickets at \$15 each.

For reservations or more information call 413-229-8252.

The Eagle Fund uses the money it raises for educational enrichment programs for students in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Along with Janet's Fund, \$30,000 in grants have been awarded for this coming school year for creative and innovative projects across many disciplines, including the arts, sciences, and technology. We need to continue to add to the endowment for the future enrichment of our children.

This show contains mature emotional content and may not be suitable for young children.



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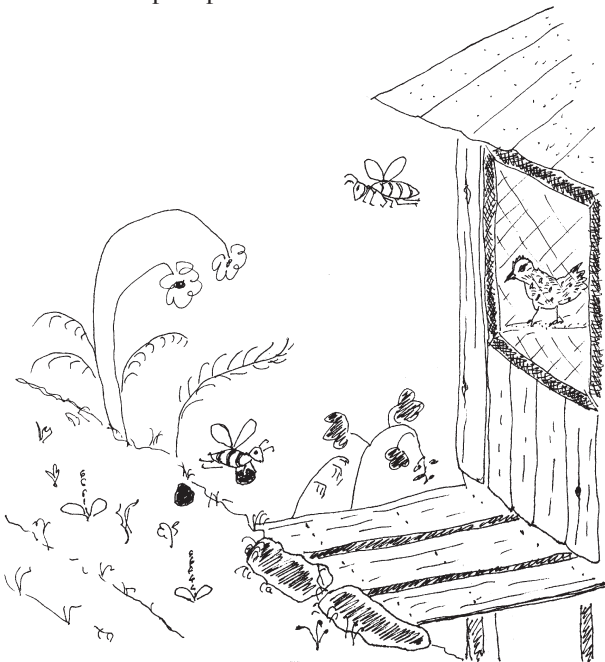
Building Castles in the Driveway

My chickens are getting pretty big now so I recently had to make renovations inside the chicken house. This involved some noisy work with pry bar and hammer. I was a little worried the babes would suffer developmental abnormalities due to the stress of rural renewal. Every time I got a board yanked I tossed it out the door onto the driveway—couldn't have those tender chicken feet encountering any crooked nails left in the boards.

Finally the inside was all fixed up and the youngsters were poking around in their enlarged space. Looked like I'd made it through the project without any injuries to anyone. I slipped out the door and began picking up the boards for cleaning and storage. Walking down the driveway with my load that hot day, past the hanging blackberry canes, I felt a scratch on my bare leg. Stashing the boards I got to thinking that in fact I hadn't passed close enough to those canes to have gotten snagged, so . . . what was it? Hard to say. The spot on my leg looked a little pink, but I generally have too many little pink places on my surface to spend time sleuthing them all out.

Back to the chicken house for a visit, to gloat over my accomplishments. Whoa!

What's this little storm by the door? It's a cloud of troubled driveway residents, never before noticed by me: about twelve little yellow jackets all riled up. Who can blame them? I flung six or eight boards right on top of their hole in the ground and left them there for half an hour. Some were trapped inside, some outside. Then I wrassled the boards about and tromped over the nest. Amazing I got off with one little pink place for all that.



I backed off, wondering how long it takes the little hearts to stop their fluttering, thinking too about the many visits I'd made over the weeks, the many friends I'd welcomed, tromping through this yellow-jacket front dooryard into the chicken house with never an incident (and never an observation on my part).

One of the big burdens of a sentient

being, I find, is the daily pile of moral dilemmas. Here was a good one to wrap my brain around, if brains are what you use for moral matters. I figured the yellow jackets would continue to inhabit this place in my chicken-house access until winter quieted them down. I have learned that by mid-September when the nest is big and the investment significant, yellow jackets can become intolerant of perceived threats to their security. Even if I didn't mind the

little pink places myself, I wasn't sure I would want to put my visitors in harm's way. Would I have to stop entertaining in the chicken house? No more philosophizing with friends while watching chickens about their business?

For the time being I clipped some brush and made it possible to give the yellow jackets a wider berth when approaching the door to the chicken salon. But I knew this was a temporary solution: the seasonally shifting temperament time bomb of the yellow jacket was ticking. I had to come up with something.

There's RAID. I used that once and had to watch the insects writhing and foaming. Don't tell me an insect does not feel pain. I also had

to wonder what might come along in the night and eat the now-toxic insects. I know skunks love to dig out yellow-jacket nests and gobble down the larvae. I would hate to start RAID on its way into a skunk, or anything else.

I could stop up the hole with something, in the middle of the night when they wouldn't know who was their enemy.

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But they would probably dig around my stopper.

As the days went by I spent almost as much time watching the yellow jackets as I did philosophizing among the chickens. I saw them emerge from their small hole lugging round boluses of damp earth, sand really, which they flew off with. You could just about hear the little motors downshift as they cleared the runway with their burdens. I tried to calculate how their interior enlargements must be coming along: about a cupful a day? Remembering my own recent interior alterations for my growing brood, I felt a clear kinship with the insects that were making their castle in my driveway. RAID was out of the question. So was stopping up the hole. I thought vaguely how I would feel if a skunk happened to come along one night and . . . remove the problem. Regret, but no responsibility.

Then it happened. Not a skunk but a gully-washer. The topography of that portion of the driveway was completely altered by one brief downpour. The next day I had a hard time even pinpointing the spot I'd been scrutinizing for weeks. There was no sign of life. I felt like the disbelieving astronaut looking down on

Earth after the asteroid has struck. No life at all? Nothing moving, where once a civilization had stood?

After a few days of shock and mourning (nope, no relief—I didn't need it any more), my scientific curiosity kicked in. I began digging out the zone with my hands, looking for an apian Pompeii. I got out a bucketful of damp sand and revealed a stone step we made a long time ago, covered over by thirty years of gully-washers, but there was no underground castle.

Maybe I dreamed the whole thing. Maybe my relationship with the driveway yellow jackets was just my own construction. I sit in my plastic chair in the chicken house, where now there are four or five hens that like to jump up on my knees. If I hold still they will hunker down so I know the warmth of the setting hen and think what might hatch from a person's knee, given enough time. My fancy has moved on, but every time I step down the newly revealed stones, I remember those small flying builders, with their versions of pry bars and hammers and their growing investment in the sand. I can stroke one of the hens now, her name is Eager. Some day her gully-washer will come, and mine, too. I'm hoping it will be a skunk or an asteroid. We wouldn't want any sentient beings to have to bear the burden of our passing.

— Bonner McAllester

Green Corner Feedback, Please

Currently the purpose of the Green Corner is to give you information, tools, and reminders on ways to tread more lightly on the earth as you make choices each day. CET would be grateful for your thoughts on the following questions to help us better meet your needs.

1. Do you read the Green Corner?
2. Is the information useful?
3. Do you have specific environmental questions, practical or conceptual?
4. Would you prefer to have the Green Corner follow a "Dear Abby" format, where residents could ask environmental questions?

5. Do you have questions about environmental impacts that you would like to see answered?

6. Do you find the Green Corner: Informative? Compelling? Boring? Practical? Irrelevant?

We look forward to hearing from you. You can call us (413-445-4556 ext 17) or send us your answers via fax (413-443-8123), e-mail, (raya@cetonline.org), or mail (CET, 112 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201). We look forward to hearing from you. Your comments are extremely valuable to us!



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Rattlesnake Heaven

Rattlesnakes right here in River City? The sudden and unexpected sighting of two mature rattlesnakes several years ago near a historic trail of The Bidwell House Museum sounded the alarm. They were spotted by Brian Puntin while helping to clear fallen branches. He saw what he thought looked like several pieces of discarded hemp, but when he went closer to look, they both started to coil up and rattle, a typical defensive posturing; then, true to their nature, they slithered away to hide in a nearby jumble of rocks. They have never been seen again, in spite of the fact I have constantly monitored the site and surrounding area. Can we be sure they are not around?

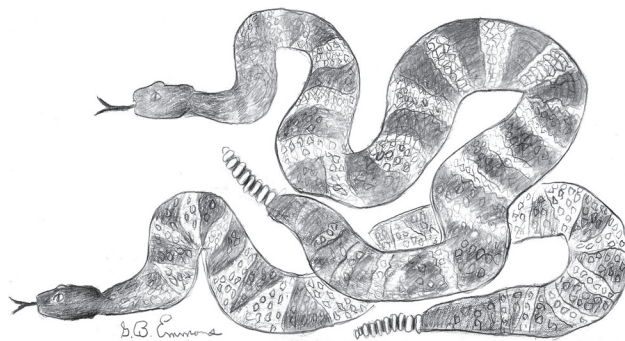
There are two schools of thought, one hoping they are gone, and the other hoping they have moved, but are not extinct. In the past ten or twenty years, rattlesnakes have become extremely rare in these parts, because of extermination, harassment, and death on the many surrounding roads. But historic records show that they had a historical presence not far away: in 1929, during a dedication ceremony by the D.A.R. of the first Meeting House marble marker, the ceremony was cut short by a rattling sound in the foundation. So this year, I called Tom Tynning, head of the Biology Department at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield and a rattlesnake expert. He kindly came to examine the several sites, to confirm or deny any possibility of their presence.

According to Tom after a thorough search, there are no signs of a historic den. Other locations within traveling distance of a rattler were Dry Hill, Mt Washington, and October Mountain Park, and it is feared

they are gone from historic dens there. He explained that when the dens were active, the males and females mated in spring, and then the males began a summer journey on a seasonal loop, as far as fifty miles, before coming back to join the female giving birth in September. Females only give birth once in two or three years and have about ten offspring, whose chance of reaching maturity in another nine years is now slim indeed. If a rattler could have a life span of twenty-five years in colonial times, the odds today are stacked against them.

Rattlesnakes are often very lethargic and like the southern sunny side of a rock ledge. They eat very little, sometimes mice, frogs, or ground-nesting birds, but usually a steady diet of chipmunks. Very often a snake will hang out, lying quietly with its head resting on a fallen tree branch so it can feel any vibrations of movement nearby. Just one strike of its venom is enough to paralyze its prey, which is later eaten and suffices for some time. According to Tom Tynning most hikers will never see or hear a rattlesnake, and there are no other poisonous species of snakes commonly found in the Southern Berkshires, including the deadly copperhead. I intend to be careful anyhow, even though he is probably right.

At the turning point of summer into autumn, at the September equinox, the sun will soon hang briefly suspended, measur-



ing equal hours of day and night over the seasonal yardarm. The male rattlesnake by his own senses and instincts has been able to trace the loop of the previous year's migration back to his starting point. As with a migratory bird this homing ability is inherent. And like other present-day reptiles, modern science seems to trace their ancestry back millions of years to prehistoric dinosaurs. This valid evidence of the theory of evolution may not, however, dispute the more recent concept of intelligent design as the origin of species and creation of life.

In most New England states, the timber rattlesnake is rated as one of the two most important species of reptiles for wildlife evaluation. Before the first snow flies, when the male crawls back into his den for the winter and curls up together with his mate and offspring for protection, warmth, and companionship, it might be said to be one of the few remaining places on earth that could be called "Rattlesnake Heaven"! This is fine with me as long as it is not in my own backyard.

— George Emmons

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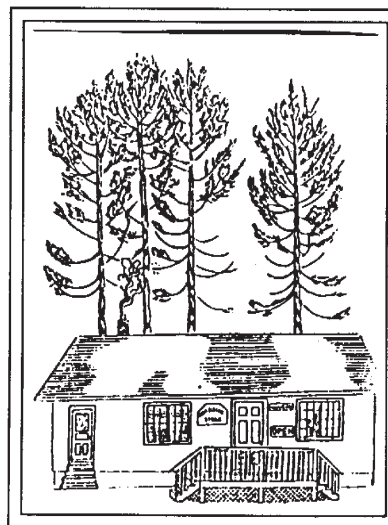
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Free Workshops on Small-Scale Solar and Wind Energy

In response to growing interest in solar and small-scale wind power in the Berkshires, the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) will offer a workshop to highlight small-scale renewable energy technology and exciting new funding opportunities. Anyone who is curious about what's involved in using renewable energy at home or work is encouraged to attend the informational workshop, which will be presented in North Adams and again in Great Barrington. The first workshop will take place on Tuesday, September 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the North Adams Public Library. On Tuesday, September 20, the second workshop will be held at Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington in the Fisher Science Center, Clark Auditorium, from 7 to 9 p.m. Chris Vreeland, a registered professional engineer, will be the featured speaker. Both workshops are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Increases in energy costs and concern about the damage fossil fuels cause to the environment lead many people to seek local, clean sources of energy. Conservation is a critical part of any energy strategy. Installing small renewable energy systems is becoming increasingly popular.

Over the past few years, dozens of solar electric systems have been installed on homes, schools and public buildings in the Berkshires.

CET's small-scale renewable energy workshop is a good way to find out if a renewable energy system is a good fit. Those who attend will learn the basics of using energy from the sun to create electricity or heat water. They will also learn how solar panels work, the components of a solar electric system, how to determine whether they have a good site, and how many solar panels would meet their electrical needs. Also covered will be average prices for solar electric and solar hot water systems, and how to find local contractors who install systems. Both workshop sites feature newly installed solar electric systems, so the workshop will include a tour of the system.

Financial incentives are available. Mr. Vreeland will give an overview of those incentives and will summarize a new program through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative that can help homeowners and small businesses pay for renewable energy systems.

Please preregister if you are interested in coming to either of the workshops. To find out more or to preregister, contact Amy Johns, at 413-445-4556 ext. 14 or e-mail her at: amyj@cetonline.org.

Oil Paint, and Waste Motor Oil Collection

Residents of Monterey and the fourteen other towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative may bring used motor oil and oil-based paints to the following collections in September.

Saturday, September 17, 9–11:30 a.m.: Great Barrington transfer station, Route 7, across from Monument Mountain High School.

Saturday, October 1, 9–11 a.m.: Lenox DPW, 275 Main Street (across from MassHighway office).

Acceptable materials are: unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine, as well as used motor oil. To participate, please preregister.

Latex paint will not be accepted at any events. Empty or dried-up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains, and solvents can be disposed with the regular trash as well.

To make an appointment, or for information about what can be brought to the collection, go to <http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#Motor%20oil>, call CET at 1-800-238-1221, ext. 14 or 25, or e-mail amyj@cetonline.org. Residents from communities that are not participating should call their city or town hall for information about household hazardous product collections.

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Peace One Day

The Center for Peace through Culture (CPC), an international organization whose business office is located in Monterey, is sponsoring the showing of the riveting, award-winning film *Peace One Day* at the Triplex Theatre in Great Barrington on Tuesday, September 20, at 6 p.m.

The film follows British filmmaker Jeremy Gilley around the world, documenting his successful effort to create an internationally recognized day of global ceasefire and nonviolence – Global Peace Day. The Triplex has generously waived its admission fee for this event.

During his remarkable five-year journey, Gilley met with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and other notables, enlisting support for the idea. His efforts culminated in a resolution by the U.N. General Assembly in 2001, declaring a day of global ceasefire and nonviolence, to be observed annually on September 21. Events in support of World Peace Day have been staged in more than 100 countries.

After the film, Nancy Roof, founder of Kosmos Journal, who has worked tirelessly with the United Nations for the last seven-

Monterey Peace Vigil

About forty people gathered in the center of Monterey on Wednesday, August 17, to express support for Cindy Sheehan, the mother who is camping outside President Bush's Texas ranch and whose son was an American soldier who died fighting for his country in Iraq. A number of Monterey folk peeled off from the group to join the vigil in Great Barrington, which had well over one hundred participants.

The group lit candles and held signs in support of Cindy Sheehan, who had asked for silent, peaceful candlelit vigils to be held at 7:30 p.m. throughout the country. Her efforts have gained widespread attention in the U.S. and throughout the world, and hundreds of cities and towns held vigils



Karl Finger

Wednesday night, including many in the Berkshires. As the Monterey "vigilers" stood by the side of the road, many passing cars honked or gave "thumbs up" signs.

The vigil was originally posted on the MoveOn.org website as being located at Joyce and Lew Scheffey's house, but was subsequently moved to the center of town to be a public event.

— Karl Finger

teen years, will lead a discussion about the film and the International Day of Peace.

CPC is also sponsoring a reception in honor of the International Day of Peace at The Gallery at Barbara Boughton Interiors, 40 Railroad Street, from 5–7 p.m. on September 17. At 6 p.m. Messenger of Peace

and Beauty, a film of Nicholas Roerich's paintings with Russian choral music will be shown. RSVP: 413 644-9288.

At noon on September 21 a minute of silence will be observed around the world. For more information, call Kathy Frome, 528-2516, or Judy Bach, 528-9636.



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Cultural Council in Full Swing this Fall

Art Show September 3

Summer may be over, but the fun goes on. The Monterey Cultural Council has two free events scheduled to welcome in the new season. The first takes place on September 3 from 10:00 to 3:00, when local artists will display, sell, and demonstrate a variety of disciplines at the art show *How's It Made?* The Council first hosted *How's It Made?* in 2003 and it is now back by popular demand. This year twenty-two artists will participate in this juried event at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion that showcases painting, potting, stitchery, knitting, quilting, basketry, printing, mosaics, and mixed media, as well as paper, basket, jewelry, and furniture making. A clay-working table will offer guests a chance to make something of their own to take home. Children are especially welcome.

The Monterey Piecemakers will display three wall quilts that are being raffled for the benefit of local nonprofits. One will benefit the Cultural Council, one is for Volunteers in Medicine (shown in photo), and one for the Berkshire Arts and Technology School. Don't forget to take a chance on one of these beautiful handmade wall hangings.

Food available for purchase will include soups by Farm Country Soup, salads



Pam Johnson

from Gould Farm, the Pullen's famous pies, and beverages and grilled favorites by the Monterey General Store. Rain or shine, the festivities will take place, accompanied by tunes from The Folk Boys at 11:30, the Bluegrass Band at 12:30, and the jug band Jug'lar Vein at 1:30.

Local art, local food, local music—it doesn't get any better than that.

Roy Blount Reading Oct. 15

Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, October 15, when writer and

September Music Nights at Monterey General Store

Thursday Music Nights at the Monterey General Store continues into the fall.

Sept. 1: Hailey Brown & Sam Brown

Sept. 8: Fred Schane

Sept. 15: Tom Ingersall & John Sellew

Sept. 22: Bob Dunn

Sept. 29: Joel Blumert

The music goes from 7–9 p.m. There is no cover charge. Light dinner is available from 6–8 p.m. For information, call the store, 413-528-4437.

humorist Roy Blount will read from his work at the Monterey Meeting House. The author of nineteen books, most recently *Feet on the Street: Rambles Around New Orleans*, Roy is a regular panelist on NPR's *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* and a familiar voice on *A Prairie Home Companion*. He is graciously donating his time to read for this Monterey Cultural Council event. Watch for details in next month's *News*.

Grant Applications Due Oct. 17

October 17th is the application deadline for this round of Cultural Council grants. Anyone wishing to apply can pick up a form at Town Hall or through the Massachusetts Cultural Council website, www.masculturalcouncil.org. This website also has information about the state council, local councils, and what the Local Cultural Council Program is all about.

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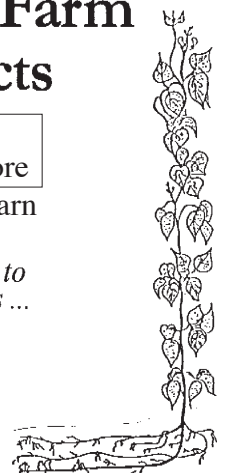
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Thank You, Monterey

To the Editor:

We all think, "It can't happen to us," and yet it did! I fell asleep at the wheel of my car in the middle of a hot, muggy afternoon just a few minutes from home. How lucky I was to have walked away from what could have been a fatal accident. My car was totally destroyed.

Two construction workers, whose names I wish I knew (Michael?) stopped to help. One went to find my husband at home, and the other drove to a phone to call the police. Chief Gareth Backhaus arrived within minutes and took charge of everything: He made sure I was OK (my husband is a physician), wrote the police report, called a tow truck, and even knew the owner of the property whose lawn was damaged. He offered to call her caretaker to repair it, and my insurance would cover same. He was extremely professional, efficient, and kind.

I also want to thank those gentlemen who drove to get help in our "non-cellular" town, as well as Jules and Barbara Dahlman, and Linda Hebert, who stopped to offer aid during a very frightening experience.

Monterey is fortunate to have public servants like Chief Backhaus. Several years ago, our lake house had a fire. The Monterey Fire Department with Chief Tryon, as well as Chief Backhaus, were immediately on the scene. I am so lucky to be able to live in this wonderful, caring community. Thank you, Monterey!

—Lynne Leavitt, Monterey

Remembering Daniel Eschen

Daniel H. Eschen, 83, of Sylvan Road died on August 19th at Fairview Hospital.

Born in New York City on May 7, 1922, son of Louis and Bertha Meyer Eschen, he was educated in New York schools. He graduated from New York

A Helping Hand, An Open Heart

To the Editor:

Given the catastrophe of Katrina, which, in my opinion, is far more serious in its implications than we can imagine, I wonder how many of us in Monterey would consider taking in—pro tem—someone left homeless and bereft. How many would be grateful to have someone to monitor a second home through the cold winter or have someone to help relieve household care of someone handicapped or just opening our hearts to being a refuge in a storm as we would be grateful if it was our village wiped out?

I find it curiously significant that the danger of terrorists that we have been bracing for has come not from a human enemy but from nature itself. It is as if our Mother Earth is giving our country a sobering reminder that she has the last word and that this gives us an opportunity to overcome divisions and reach out in compassion and commitment to our common humanity. This has been a characteristic of Monterey throughout its history, and I just suggest that we consider it. I have.

—Alice O. Howell, Monterey

University with a degree in engineering and received his master's degree from Illinois Tech in Chicago. He moved to Monterey in 1992 and lived part time in Harbor Beach, Florida.

A Navy veteran of World War II, he served as a chief petty officer. Mr. Eschen was president of Eschen Steel & Ironworks in New York for 44 years, retiring in 1988. He was a member of the board of directors of Penn Dixie Cement in New York for several years and was involved in teaching with the U.S. Coast Guard.

He enjoyed boating and collected nautical books and memorabilia for many years, and was a member of the Titanic and Steamship historical societies. He also was active in the Eastchester Lions Club and was a member of the Masons in New York for many years and treasurer of Kings Point Maritime Museum for 10 years.

His first wife, the former Lila Taskel, died November 30, 1995.

He and his wife, the former Georgianna Pecorelli, were married June 22, 1996.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Gerrie Flaxman of Hollywood, Florida, and Ellen Eschen and Laurie Marseghlia, both of Brandford, Connecticut; a stepdaughter, Nancy Pecorelli of Monterey; a stepson, Randy Pecorelli of Santa Fe, New Mexico; two grandsons, Andrew and Steven Eschen; and a step-granddaughter, Cristina Temenos.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Fairview Hospital or to Hospice Care in the Berkshires, c/o Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon.

Every Saturday through September: Lake Garfield Torah Group meets. For information call 528-3193 or 567-8171.

All of September: Free tours of the Bidwell House Museum for residents of Tyringham and Monterey. See p.14.

Every Thursday in September: Music night at the General Store. See p. 21.

Thursday, September 8: Blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices.

Saturday, September 10: Eagle Fund Fundraiser performance, Consolati Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. Also Sunday afternoon. See p. 15.

Saturday, September 17:

Easy two-hour trail walk, 10 a.m., Bidwell House. See p. 14.

Free concert on the lawn featuring Pamela Wyn and Rebecca Hall, “A Bit O’ Jig and Twang.” Bidwell House, 2 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20:

Peace One Day film showing at the Triplex at 6 p.m. Free admission. See p. 20.

Free workshop on solar and wind energy at Simon’s Rock College in Great Barrington, 7–9 p.m. See p. 19

Wednesday, September 21: International Day of Peace: One minute of silence at noon as well as 24-hour vigils will be observed around the world.

Friday, September 23: Bidwell House photography exhibition opening fea-

The Observer July 26–August 25

High temp. (8/5, 8/14)..... 88°
 Low temp. (8/25) 49°
 Avg. high temp. 76.5°
 Avg. low temp. 57.4°
 Avg. temp. 67.0°
 Total rainfall..... 3.45 in.
 Precipitation occurred on 12 days; one storm of 2.08 in.

Thanks to Contributors

Sel and Sue Whitaker
 Maryjane S. Haggerty
 Susan and Peter LePrevost

turing Joanna Jennings, 2 p.m. Self-depictions in the Bidwell Collection;.

Saturday, September 24: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Al Brozek. Adults \$6, children \$3. Info 528-9385.

Friday, September 30: Bidwell House opening of exhibits by Berkshire artists John Maziarz’s and Zachary Leonard, 2 p.m.



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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 12; George Emmons, p. 18;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16.

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